

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 EURE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6267

INFO USMISSION UN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PLOS GR TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 8413

1. THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF THE GREEK
APPEAL CONCERNING THE AEGEAN, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMIK I
AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS REMAIN THE PREDOMINANT NEWS ITEMS
IN THE GREEK PRESS (DUE TO A LOCAL HOLIDAY NO NEWSPAPERS
WERE PUBLISHED FROM SUNDAY MORNING UNTIL TUESDAY AFTERNOON).

EARLIER CONFIDENCE THAT THINGS WERE GOING WELL FOR THE GREEK

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SIDE IN NEW YORK HAS ERODED,AND THERE ARE NOW EXPRESSIONS OF

UNEASINESS AND, IN SOME CASES, FEAR THAT THE OUTCOME MAY NOT BE AS FAVORABLE TO GREECE AS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED BY THE MEDIA. SOME NEWSPAPERS TODAY (AUG 18) HEADLINE THAT SECY KISSINGER HAD OPPOSED THE EARLIER DRAFT RESOLUTION SPONSORED BY THE EUROPEANS BECAUSE IT FAVORED GREECE. HE WAS REPORTED TO BE SEEKING A FORMULATION WHICH WOULD ALSO SATISFY TURKEY. FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH TO VIMA AND TA NEA (LIBERAL, OPPOSITION SISTER PAPERS) IN THEIR HEADLINES ACCUSED THE SECRETARY OF "PRO-TURKISH INTER-VENTION", WHILE PRO-GOVT ACROPOLIS BANNER HEADLINED "KISSINGER TORPEDOES THE RESOLUTION FAVORING GREECE." MOST DESPATCHES FROM NEW YORK MENTION THE INTENSE BEHIND THE SCENES ACTIVITY - ESPECIALLY OF THE NATO COUNTRIES ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL INCLUDING THE US- TO FIND A COMPROMISE ACCEPTABLE TO TURKEY.

2. OTHER STORIES REPORT ON THE ABORTIVE TURKISH ATTEMPT TO GET SUPPORT FOR A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS AND CRITICIZE GREECE FOR MILITARIZING THEM. THE SAILING OF THE SISMİK I FROM IZMIR AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT FOR THE THIRD PHASE OF ITS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE AEGEAN WAS ALSO REPORTED. MANY STORIES REFER TO THE SISMİK'S ACTIVITIES (WITH SOME PAPERS HIGHLIGHTING TURKISH REPORTS THAT THESE WOULD BE IN THE AREA OF CRETE) AS A DIRECT SLAP TO THE UNSC. TURKISH DEMANDS THAT GREECE DEMILITARIZE THE ISLANDS IN THE EASTERN AEGEAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1923 LAUSANNE AND 1947 PARIS TREATIES, AND THE APPEAL BY THE ANNUAL GREEK-AMERICAN AHEPA CONGRESS IN HOUSTON TO THE USG FOR FIRM DIPLOMATIC ACTION IN RESOLVING THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE ALSO RECEIVED COVERAGE. THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ON THE GREEK APPEAL AUG 16 AND SPECULATION THAT BOTH SIDES MIGHT BE INVITED TO PRESENT THEIR PUBLIC ARGUMENTS TO THE COURT AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK ARE LIKEWISE NOTEWORTHY ITEMS.

3. THE PRESS HAS DEMONSTRATED A CONTINUING CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOVIET INITIATIVE IN MAKING A DEMARCHE IN ATHENS AND ANKARA CALLING FOR RESTRAINT AND NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL). WHILE THE PRO-MOSCOW ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR, RIZOSPASTIS, WAS ALONE IN PRAISING THE SOVIET MOVE AS AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACT CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE, MUCH OF THE PRESS WAS IN AGREEMENT IN LABELING THE RUSSIAN EFFORT AS PRO-TURKISH. SOME QUESTIONED WHY THE USSR HAD WAITED SO LONG TO EXPRESS AN OPINION ON THE AEGEAN CRISES WHILE OTHERS FAULTED THE SOVIETS FOR FAILING TO CONDEMN TURKEY FOR VIOLATING GREEK RIGHTS. PRO-PASOK ATHINAİKI ACCUSED THE USSR OF BRINGING PRESSURE ON GREECE TO CAVE IN TO TURKEY SO THAT THE USSR AND THE US

CAN JOINTLY SHARE THE AEGEAN.

4. EDITORIAL COMMENT CONTINUES GENERALLY TO ENDORSE THE CARAMANLIS POLICY OF SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, ALTHOUGH SOME MUTED CRITICISM HAS SURFACED IN LEFTIST NEWSPAPERS THAT DECISION-MAKING IS OVERLY CONCENTRATED IN THE HANDS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THAT GREECE SHOULD SEEK A MORE INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY. AS AN FILLIP, YESTERDAY, THE FAMOUS POPULAR COMPOSER, AND LEFTIST POLITIAL ACTIVIST, MIKIS THEODORAKIS SHARPLY ATTACKED EXTREME LEFTIST PASOK CHIEFTAIN ANDREAS PAPANDREOU IN A COLUMN ENTITLED "THE HAWKS OF DISSENT" FOR ADVOCATING THAT GREECE SINK THE SISMIR AND FOR BRINGING DIVISIVENESS TO THE GREEK NATION. THEODORAKIS' STANCE WAS FAIRLY WIDELY PLAYED IN THE PRESS TODAY AND ENDORSED BY MUCH OF THE MEDIA, ALTHOUGH ATHINAIKI CHARGED THEODORAKIS HAD BECOME A GOVERNMENT APOLOGIST.
KUBISCH

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